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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (new): An isolated RNA fraction that enhances the amplification of PrP^{Sc}, said RNA fraction obtained by:

- (a) isolating RNA from non-human mammalian brain tissue;
- (b) passing the RNA through an oligo dT column to obtain a fraction of RNA that does not bind to the oligo dT column; and
- (c) separating the fraction of RNA of (b) by ultrafiltration to obtain a fraction of RNA of greater than 300 nucleotides.

Claim 9 (new): A kit for identifying the presence of PrP^{Sc} comprising the RNA fraction of claim 8.